AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A polarizer formed ~~by dyeing, crosslinking, stretching and drying~~ with a stretched hydrophilic polymer film, wherein the polarizer has a shrinkage force of at most 4.0 N/cm in an absorption axis direction, the shrinkage force being measured by (i) heating the polarizer at 80°C for 30 minutes, and (ii) subsequently measuring the shrinkage force of the polarizer.

2. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the shrinkage force in the absorption axis direction after being heated at 80°C for 30 minutes ranges from 1.0 N/cm to 3.7 N/cm.

3. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the polarizer thickness is at most 25 μm.

4. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 3, wherein the polarizer thickness ranges from 10 μm to 18 μm.

5. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic polymer film before being stretched is a polyvinyl alcohol-based film.

6. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 5, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol-based film thickness is at most 60 μm.

7. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 5, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has an average polymerization degree ranging from 500 to 10000, and an average

saponification degree of at least 75 mol%.

8. (Currently amended): A polarizing plate comprising

a polarizer formed with a stretched hydrophilic polymer film, wherein the polarizer has a shrinkage force of at most 4.0 N/cm in an absorption axis direction, the shrinkage force being measured by (i) heating the polarizer at 80°C for 30 minutes, and (ii) subsequently measuring the shrinkage force of the polarizer; and

a protective film laminated on at least one surface of the polarizer,

wherein the polarizing plate satisfies a relationship of 0.01 A/B 0.16 where A denotes a thickness of the polarizer and B denotes a thickness of the protective film.

9. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, satisfying a relationship of $0.05 \leq A/B \leq 0.16$ where A denotes a thickness of the polarizer and B denotes a thickness of the protective film.

10. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein thickness of the protective film is at least 80 μm.

11. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 10, wherein thickness of the protective film ranges from 80 μm to 200 μm.

12. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 10, wherein the protective film is a triacetylcellulose film.

13. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the protective film and the polarizer are attached by an adhesive.

14. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 13, wherein the adhesive is a polyvinyl alcohol-based adhesive.

15. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 13, wherein an additional adhesive layer is formed on at least one surface of the polarizing plate.

16. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polarizing plate has a dimensional change rate of not more than ±0.7% in a longitudinal direction (MD) after being heated at 70°C for 120 hours.

17. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 8 further comprising, at least one optical layer selected from a reflector, a transreflector, a retardation plate, a lambda plate, a viewing angle compensating film, and a brightness enhancement film.

18. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the polarizing plate and the optical layer are laminated through an adhesive layer.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the ~~polarizing plate~~ polarizer has a dimensional change rate of not more than ±0.7% in a longitudinal direction (MD) after being heated at 70°C for 120 hours.

22. (Previously presented): A polarizer, wherein the polarizer has a shrinkage force of at most 4.0 N/cm in an absorption axis direction, the shrinkage force being measured by (i) heating the polarizer at 80°C for 30 minutes, and (ii) subsequently measuring the shrinkage force of the polarizer.

23. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the shrinkage force in the absorption axis direction after being heated at 80°C for 30 minutes ranges from 1.0 N/cm to 3.7 N/cm.

24. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polarizer

thickness is at most 25 μm.

25. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polarizer thickness ranges from 10 μm to 18 μm.

26. (Currently amended): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the hydrophilic polymer film before being stretched is a polyvinyl alcohol-based film.

27. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 26, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol-based film thickness is at most 60 μm.

28. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 26, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has an average polymerization degree ranging form 500 to 10000, and an average saponification degree of at least 75 mol%.

29. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a reflector.

30. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a transflector.

31. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a retardation plate.

32. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a lambda plate.

33. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a viewing angle compensating film.

34. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a brightness enhancement plate.

35. (Previously presented): The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polarizer is formed by dyeing, crosslinking, stretching and drying a hydrophilic polymer film.

36-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended): A polarizer formed by a method for preparing a polarizer comprising a stretched hydrophilic polymer film, the method comprising:

dyeing a hydrophilic polymer film before being stretched,

subjecting the film to a swelling treatment,

subjecting the film to a crosslinking treatment,

stretching the film, and

drying ~~a hydrophilic polymer~~ the film,

wherein a thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film ~~used as a starting material~~ before being stretched is not more than 75 μm.

43. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein the stretching of the film is conducted in water and subsequently, the crosslinking ~~of the film~~ treatment is conducted with a crosslinking agent.

44. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein stretching of the film is conducted in a traverse direction and subsequently in a longitudinal direction.

45. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 42, ~~further comprising: relaxing stress at least once after stretching the film, and further stretching~~ wherein the stretching of the film comprises stretching the film, relaxing stress of the film after stretching the film, and subsequently stretching the film.

46. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein the thickness of the

hydrophilic polymer film ~~for the starting material~~ before being stretched is not more than 60 μm.

47. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein the thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film ~~for the starting material~~ before being stretched is from 20 to 50 μm.